

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for process handling of ~~an image-only file in a~~ PDF data stream which is en route to a printer comprising

querying such a PDF data stream to detect the presence therein of a ~~PDF any such image-only file, and~~

on detecting the presence of such a PDF image-only file in the data stream, and with respect to the data in that file, directing that data to a dedicated, PDF image-only pipeline processing path en route to the printer,
and

for PDF files that are other than a PDF image-only file,
performing conventional PDF handling en route to the printer.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein said directing includes specifically directing ~~at~~ the detected image-only block of PDF data to a path which includes processing steps involving image decoding, and downstream from image decoding, rendering for printing.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Apparatus for handling ~~and image-only file in a~~ PDF data stream which is en route to a printer comprising

querying structure for querying a PDF data stream to detect therein the presence of any image-only block of PDF data, and

operatively connected to said querying structure, and downstream therefrom, (a) processing structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data processing for processing image-only blocks of PDF data, and (b) processing structure for conventional PDF handling of PDF data which are other than image-only blocks of PDF data, wherein said querying structure, when querying a PDF data stream that is en route to a printer, deflects the PDF data from said processing structure for conventional PDF handling to said processing structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data processing when an image-only block of PDF data is detected.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said ~~processingdownstream~~ structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data processing includes image decoding structure, and downstream ~~from~~ said image decoding structure, render for printing structure.